



USAID
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KENYA

ENVIRONMENT

Kenya's biodiversity and unique landscapes are among the most iconic in the world. The diverse wildlife and conservation areas are among the country's natural assets. Natural resources and nature-based tourism are drivers of the Kenyan economy and a source of livelihood to approximately 5.2 million people. Hence, the need to sustainably manage natural resources and related assets remains a priority. Despite its importance, the sector suffers many challenges such as climate change, increased greenhouse emissions, low private and public funding, human-wildlife conflicts, bushmeat trade and illegal poaching are all linked to new trends in weather patterns and climate shocks. Climate threats compromise communities across the country, specifically marginalized areas such as the northern and coastal parts. COVID-19 outbreak has further deepened their vulnerability.

The pandemic resulted in a huge decline in tourism which, in the past, has contributed an average of 10 percent to Kenya's GDP and 1.5 million jobs both directly and indirectly. In response, USAID refocused approximately \$15 million in funding towards essential services to address deficits in the operations costs of partner conservancies and community livelihood funds. In addition, USAID-supported partners successfully lobbied the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife to set up a \$8 million Wildlife Fund to support conservancies. An additional \$2 million was allocated to an Independent National Trust Fund to support community conservancies in the future and \$10 million has been designated to recruit and train 5500 Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) rangers. USAID works with the county and the national Governments of Kenya to promote local natural resource management solutions that are championed, created, and managed by the local community and supported by the private sector.

COUNTER WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

Wildlife crime is transnational and requires a strong regional and transcontinental approach. USAID's work supports security objectives to strengthen cross-border security, and boost resilience nationally and regionally. USAID supports KWS to enhance wildlife management, address wildlife trafficking, and support the enforcement and prosecution of wildlife crimes. The Mission's support has led to

the development of a Wildlife Information Exchange which promotes accountability and effectiveness in combating wildlife trafficking. USAID's partnership with the Department of Interior supports the Internews implemented East African Media Coverage of Conservation and Wildlife project to empower journalists, editors, media outlets, and journalism associations in the region to improve media coverage of conservation issues, including wildlife trafficking and human-wildlife conflicts. East African institutions lead USAID's combating wildlife trafficking work, and those efforts are creating sustainable solutions to prevent and interrupt wildlife crime.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Communities play a key role in both the protection and conservation of wildlife on community lands. USAID, in partnership with KWS, pioneered the community conservancy model in Kenya, a widely recognized approach to conservation that protects wildlife outside state-protected areas, expands economic opportunities for conservancy communities, and enhances the resilience of people and landscapes to withstand climate variability and shocks. USAID has scaled up its landscape approach to biodiversity conservation in critical wildlife corridors in Northern and Coastal Kenya and most recently, in Amboseli, Tsavo and the Maasai Mara ecosystems. USAID support in Northern and Coastal Kenya through the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) benefits 472,000 people in 39 community conservancies. Currently, there are 167 conservancies in Kenya that create space for the 65% of wildlife outside Kenya's parks and reserves and conserve 11% of Kenya's land.

CLIMATE ACTION

USAID works with the Government of Kenya and other partners, to enhance the resilience of Kenya's landscapes, livelihoods, and communities to climate change. Together, the United States and Kenya will amplify commitments to climate change interventions through Kenya's Vision 2030, and the UNFCCC Paris Agreement. Furthermore, USAID supports Kenya's commitment to a low-emission and climate-resilient economy. USAID supported the development and implementation of Kenya's national climate legislative framework, a necessary step towards sustainable responses to climate issues. Key instruments include: The Climate Change Act (2016), the National Climate Change Action Plan (2018-2022), the improved and ambitious National Determined Contribution (2020), and the National Adaptation Plan (2015-2030) which is Kenya's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas and impact of climate change under the Paris Climate Agreement. USAID is engaging with the private sector and supporting Kenya's policy framework to develop a climate strategy that aligns with the priorities of the Biden administration.

BUDGET (FY 2021): \$8.9 million

KEY PARTNERS

Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya Wildlife Services, Water Resource Management Authority, National Museums of Kenya, Kenya Forestry Research Institute, Kenya Meteorological, Kenya Water Towers Agency, NETFUND, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Interior, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, U.S. Department of Energy (National Renewable Energy Laboratory), National Academy of Sciences, Smithsonian Institution, United Nations (UN) Development Programme, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, International Union for Conservation of Nature, International Development Law Organization, Northern Rangelands Trust

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